



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Telecommunications and Cable

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KAREN CHARLES PETERSON
COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2015

RE: Petition of Charter Communications to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Charter Communications that are currently subject to rate regulation, D.T.C. 14-6

Dear Issuing Authority:

The Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") will hold a public and evidentiary hearing, pursuant to G.L. c. 166A, § 15 and 207 C.M.R. § 6.03, to investigate the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for all of the rate regulated municipalities in Massachusetts served by Charter Communications ("Charter"), in response to its filings. The hearing will be held at 10:00 A.M. on May 13, 2015, at 1000 Washington Street, Hearing Room 1-E, Boston, MA, and is a formal hearing conducted under G.L. c. 30A and the Standard Adjudicatory Rules of Practice and Procedure at 801 C.M.R. §§ 1.00 *et seq.* Charter, as the cable operator serving your municipality, is required to arrange for notice of the hearing, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. G.L. c. 166A, § 15; 207 C.M.R. § 6.05. A copy of the hearing notice that was provided to Charter for publication is enclosed for informational purposes.

As the issuing authority for a municipality served by Charter, you may want to participate in this hearing. Please note that under Massachusetts regulations, issuing authorities are not automatically parties to rate proceedings. 801 C.M.R. § 1.01(9). While Department proceedings allow for full public input from all interested persons, an interested person may participate as a party only if it files a petition to intervene and such petition is subsequently granted by the Department. *Id.* The petition to intervene must state with specificity how the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by the rate proceeding. *Id.*

An issuing authority that is granted party status has the right to participate fully in the proceeding, including the right to cross-examine the cable operator's witnesses at the hearing; the right to receive all correspondence and documents provided by the cable operator to the Department; and the right to appeal the Department's Rate Order. *Id.* §§ 1.01(5)(f), 1.01(10)(f), 1.01(13). An intervenor is also allowed to participate in discovery. *Id.* § 1.01(8)(a). For example, the intervenor may submit to the cable operator prior to the hearing written questions related to the rate proceeding, which the cable operator is required to answer. If your municipality wishes to intervene, it must file its petition to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on May 5, 2015.



If you have any questions or comments regarding the hearing procedures, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Clark
Secretary of the Department